



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a truly fantastic few months it has been. Thank you for the warm welcome and support you've shown me since I joined the school. Your partnership has made a real difference, and this term has highlighted the strength of our school community.

This week, it has been brilliant celebrating the hard work and achievements of our students during our reward assemblies. Students have been proud of their certificates and prizes, and these moments remind us of the incredible effort so many put in every day.

On Tuesday evening, we also had our Christmas Showcase. This was a wonderful evening of music and performance which showed off the fantastic talent of our students – it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, thank you!

Today we also enjoyed a festive Christmas Jumper Day - and what an amazing range of designs on show! Thank you to everyone who took part and helped spread some seasonal cheer.

As we head into the festive break, please remember that support is available locally if you need it. Details of community services and helplines are included in this newsletter, and we encourage anyone who needs assistance to reach out—help is always there.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming all students back in school, in full uniform, on **Tuesday 6th January** for a prompt start to the new term. Let's make the next term even more successful!

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme winter delivery

The HAF programme is live for the winter school holidays.

HAF provides activities for families who are eligible for means tested Free School Meals (FSM). Families can browse our listings and book activities via our [booking system Eequ](#). All sessions include a healthy meal.

We have some provisions for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or for families who require support but are not eligible for FSM (with a professional referral form); please contact us if you would like to know more details.

To contact HAF Suffolk directly with regard to any questions or issues, please email: [HAEnquiries@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:HAEnquiries@suffolk.gov.uk).

### Free School Meals – Check Your Eligibility

If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals, you can apply online and receive an immediate response and confirmation email.

Children who have received free school meals since 1 April 2018 will continue to receive them until the end of the 2025/2026 school year, regardless of changes in income.

Use this link to check and [Apply for free school meals](#)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll also qualify for the Holiday Activity and Food Programme. [More information from Suffolk County Council is available here](#)



## Support Over the Holidays

If you or your family need help during the festive break, there are local services ready to support you:

### Food Support

- **Lowestoft & District Foodbank** – Emergency food parcels  
Tel: **07307 866146** | Locations: Bevan Street East & Canning Road
- **FISH (Food In School Holidays)** – Free holiday meals for families

### Family & Parenting Support

- **The Ark Family Hub** – Advice and guidance for parents  
Tel: **01502 674960**
- **Riverside Family Hub** – Family support, SEND advice  
Tel: **01502 674700** | Email: [riverside@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:riverside@suffolk.gov.uk)

### Mental Health & Wellbeing

- **Just One Number** – Emotional health support for families  
Tel: **0300 300 0123** | Text: **07520 631590**
- **NHS 111** – Mental health option for urgent help
- **Samaritans** – Free 24/7 emotional support: **116 123**
- **Shout** – Text **SHOUT** to **85258** for crisis support

### Disabilities & Community Support

- **Access Community Trust / Olive Centre** – Local community services  
Tel: **01502 561438**



## Suffolk's County Music Groups - Places available

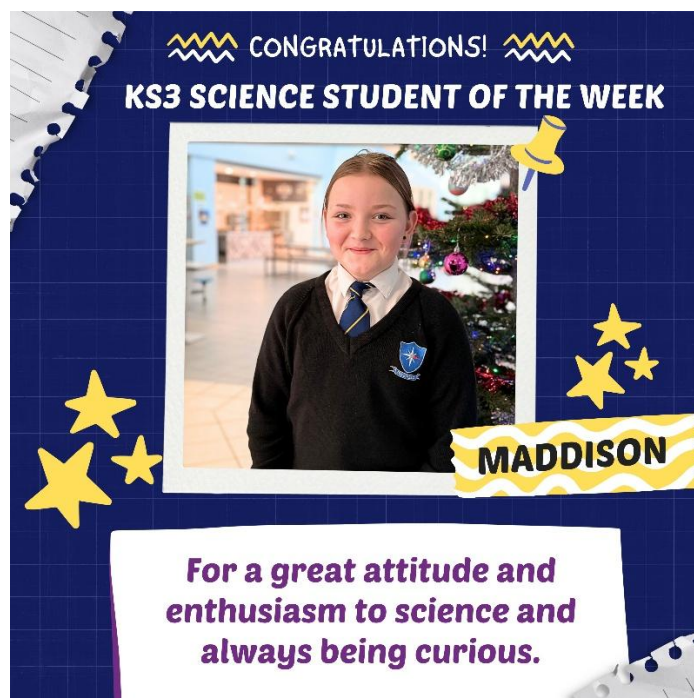
Places are still available in the Suffolk Youth Orchestra (SYO) and Suffolk Youth Wind Band (SYWB), two premier county music groups in Suffolk.

With high level bespoke programmes, SYO and SYWB membership offers rehearsals and exciting performance opportunities throughout the year, performing at prestigious venues (including in Europe), coached by Suffolk's County Music Service's (SCMS's) professional team of tutors.

Information on how to apply to join SYO or SYWB can be found at: [County Music Groups: Orchestras, bands and jazz orchestra - Suffolk County Music Service \(suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk\)](https://suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk).

Come and see our young musicians shine at the upcoming [Open Rehearsal](#) on Monday, 22 December 2025 in Ipswich.

## Student of the Week







## Community student of the week



### Pakefield Community Spotlight

#### Sonni

Sonni in Year 8 has been sharing his hobby of power boating with us this week, where he has to steer and manoeuvre boats at speed whilst employing race strategies.

**Sonni's story:**  
Sonni began power boating aged 12 and it is a hobby he does with his brother-in-law. You can often find him power boating at Oulton Broad and also sometimes in Bedford. Sonni attended the World's event where he was part of the supporting class for the GT15 category where he drives at speeds of up to 3040 mph! When asked his future ambitions Sonni told us that he wants to eventually compete in National competitions and hopes to continue his power boating. Well done Sonni!





### Pakefield Community Spotlight

#### Stanley

**Student Update:**  
We are pleased to report that Stanley has once again won the Lowestoft park Run with an exceptional time of 17:43.  
Well done Stanley! Keep up the excellent work and keep smashing those PB records!





## Science Ambassador Event



This week our science ambassadors planned and taught a Christmas themed CSI event for Pakefield Primary school. The event was a great success with the primary students conducting special experiments and solving clues to find out who killed Elfrid the elf.

Feedback from pupils included 'this is the best science lesson ever' and 'we really enjoyed the snow making, it was cool.'

Mrs Trigg congratulates the Ambassadors on another amazing event – well done.





## Weekly 100% Attendance Rewards



Every Monday, one student from each year group with 100% attendance in the previous week will be randomly selected to receive a £5 Amazon voucher.



Every Friday, two students from each year group with 100% attendance for the entire week will also be randomly selected to receive a golden ticket, and a jump the queue pass for themselves and a friend. This pass also entitles the winner to a complimentary meal deal.

LIBRARY			
		Break	Lunch
M	Wk1	OPEN	OPEN
	Wk2	OPEN	OPEN
T	Wk1	OPEN	OPEN
	Wk2	OPEN	OPEN
W	Wk1	OPEN	OPEN
	Wk2	OPEN	OPEN
T	Wk1	CLOSED	CLOSED
	Wk2	CLOSED	CLOSED
F		CLOSED	CLOSED

*Library Clubs*  
 Mon Games Club  
 Tue Crafty Tuesday  
 Wed Chess Club  
 Curious to know more? Check out our clubs posters or ask in the Library.

You can come to borrow and return books whenever the Library is open.

### Library Information

**Library & Clubs Update**

- \*You can borrow and return books anytime the library is open.
- \*Books can also be returned in the Returns box outside the library.
- \*If you borrowed any books before the summer, please return them as soon as possible.

**Computer Access**  
 Computers are available every lunchtime the library is open for homework/schoolwork only.

**Library Clubs**  
 Library clubs run every week!  
 Important: You must sign up at break before lunch on the day of the club.  
 No sign-up = No club!



## Homework Club



**KS3 SEND HOMEWORK CLUB**  
**EVERY TUESDAY**  
**With Mrs McGovern**  
**IT2**  
**3PM-3:35PM**



## School Nurse

**New School Nurse:** Sonia Southgate

**Changes:** Sonia is in school fortnightly on a Tuesday lunch time.

**Venue:** Meeting Room 2

**Times:**

Year 7, 9 and 11: 1.00pm-1.30pm

Years 8 and 10: 1.30pm-2.00pm

**Dates:**

**(Spring Term 1)**

- Tuesday 13th January 2026.
- Tuesday 27th January 2026
- Tuesday 10th February 2026







## The Seagull

### Pop Arts

HARNESSING THE POWER OF CREATIVITY IN YOUNG PEOPLE.

### MUSIC TECHNOLOGY & SONGWRITING CLUB

The Seagull, 19-75 Morton Rd, Pakefield, Lowestoft  
NR33 0JH

[www.poparts.org](http://www.poparts.org) | Pop Arts is registered charity  
number 1188328.

FREE for Young People (Ages 7-12)

Saturday Mornings | 10:30- 12:30PM

24th & 31st January 2026

7th & 14th February 2026

Create & Record Your Own Music!

Logic Pro, GarageBand,  
synths, drum machines & more!

Email [contact@poparts.org](mailto:contact@poparts.org)

or simply turn up on the day .

### School Events

Week Beginning	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>05/01/2026</b>	Staff PD day – No students in school	All students return to school at 08:25			
<b>12/01/2026</b>					
<b>19/01/2026</b>	Year 11 Group photo	Criminal Exploitation workshops		Year 9 – Options evening	

Warm regards,  
Mr P Dougherty  
Head of School

Head of School: Mr P Dougherty  
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